

Remarks

Initially Applicants thank the Examiner for discussing the pending application during a telephone call on May 31, 2006. Claims 19, 21, 23, 27, 29, and 31 have been amended.

In the Office Action, the Examiner alleged that newly submitted claims 19-34 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed. As a result, the Examiner asserted that the presently pending claims, claims 19-34, are directed to a non-elected invention. And since all of the previous pending claims were cancelled, the Examiner reasoned that there are no longer any claims in the application for action on the merits.

Accordingly, independent claims 19 and 27 have been amended to clearly include all or substantially all of the features of originally filed claims 1 and 8, respectively. In addition, claims 19 and 27 include features not recited in original claims 1 and 8, to place them in condition of allowance. Resultingly, claims 19 and 27 are simply allowable species of the original generic claims 1 and 8. Claims 20-26 and 28-34 depend from independent claims 19 and 27, incorporating their features, therefore, are also likewise allowable specie claims of previous pending generic claims 1 and 8. Applicants therefore, respectfully request consideration of claims 19-34 on their merits, and submit that because of the additional limitations, are in condition of allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 19-34 are in condition for allowance. Early issuance of Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at 503-796-2099.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge shortages or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 500393.

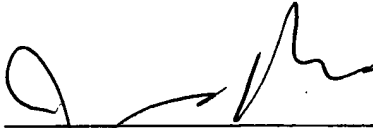
Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: _____

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